(a) whether it is a fact that a single window system is being created for clearing the new drug applications involving recombinant technology and Genetic Engineering; and

(b) if so, by when this will become operational and what will be the requirement for such a clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forest, a task force on recombinant pharma has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR New Delhi, for streamlining the current regulatory framework on recombinant based therapeutic products. Final decision in this respect will be taken as and when the final recommendations of the said committee are received.

Funds for National Mission on Rural Health

598. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal from Karnataka for release of funds under National Mission on Rural Health is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal in the form of Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for Reproductive and Child Health Programme-II (RCH-II) has been received from Govt. of Karnataka.

(b) The basic objective of the proposal is to improve the Reproductive and Child Health of the population. The PIP for the year 2005-06 is for Rs. 102.60 crores.

(c) The Plan has been approved for Rs. 63.00 crores. The first instalment of Rs. 28.30 crores is being released shortly to the State Government.